

Oral History Interview

NSA-OH-32-80

Gloria Chiles

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M62, SAB II, NSA

By: R.D. Farley

Farley: Today is the 15th of September 1980. Our interviewee, Madame Gloria Chiles. Gloria was in the WACs in 1944, stationed at Arlington Hall and worked on a TA problem. Gloria will recall her experiences during the 1944-45 period. The interview is taking in the M62 area. Interviewer, Bob Farley. Classification of the tape according to Gloria is SECRET HVCCO.

Farley: Gloria, let's <sup>Sort of</sup> start to get underway and ask you to recount your World War II experiences. This is, again, part of the Oral History Program inasmuch as we can put down on paper for the people who follow us, so much the better for them. Would you briefly recount your family background before you got into the service?

Chiles: Uh huh. I was born and raised in West Virginia and Ohio, and in 1944 I graduated from Morris Harvey College in Charleston, West Virginia. And after that

I decided I wanted to go into the service. so I was sworn in the Women's Auxillary Corps on the 4th of July 1944 at White Sul<sup>ph</sup>ur Springs. White Sul<sup>ph</sup>ur Springs was at that time converted to a hospital for the Army and also they had prisoners of war there. They had some Germans that were interned. I went on active duty about the 19th of July and went to Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, had six weeks of basic training in the hot summer, and arrived at Arlington Hall Station in September.

Farley:

What sort of basic training did you have? Was it<sup>t</sup> just the march about and the....

Chiles:

Yes. It was the regular basic training for the women. And from that area women went into a lot of different fields. There was no officer's training in the group that I was with. It was all just enlisted women. And a lot of the women who were in training<sup>there</sup> didn't know where they were going to go until after their six-weeks training. I had been recruited in Charleston, West Virginia, by a recruiter for Arlington Hall, so I knew that I was ultimately going to be in the Washington area.

Farley:

What was there in your background that would suggest to a recruiter that you might be intelligence material?

Chiles:

Well, I think the fact that I had just graduated from college, and in addition to that, they did give us testing.

So there was an intelligence test of some kind that was given. There was no recruiting going on at that time for officer training because it was late in the war. I realized I had, at least originally, I had thought I wanted to go into the Navy and I wanted to go into officer's training, but that was not feasible.

Farley: Did you have any language background, Gloria?

Chiles: I had French, but it wasn't useful for me as far as work at Arlington Hall was concerned.

Farley: What did the recruiter tell you about the mission of Arlington Hall?

Chiles: Well, <sup>uh</sup> of course, he painted it to be very glamorous and it had to do with enemy intelligence information that we would be working with. And he made it sound as though it was really what was going to win the war. It was as important as the men that were shooting the guns and the bullets and planes and so forth. The physical establishment was painted to be rather nice and delightful also. They said, you know, "This is a converted school, private school. And so you are going to have very nice working conditions." Turned out not to be quite as nice as we had envisioned it would be. We arrived at Arlington Hall and were put in a barracks. They had various barracks buildings and sort of lower down in the terrain they had a couple of old buildings that had pot bellied stoves.

I think we'd been told that Colonel Hobby had just come through and condemned the buildings. Well, we spent that winter in the buildings and shoveled coal in the old pot bellied stoves. So that was a little bit more rural than we anticipated.

Farley: Were you the first WAC company at Arlington Hall?

Chiles: No. There were WACs there when I arrived.

Farley: You ~~got~~<sup>had</sup> no specialized training at Des Moines at all?

Chiles: No.

Farley: Right to Arlington Hall and then joined the WAC company.

Chiles: Right.

Farley: Were you enrolled at all in a crypt course of any type?

Chiles: Uh, no. I came to Arlington Hall and I had learned a little bit early in the game not to admit that I could type and also a number of us were questioned about our math background and, unfortunately, I did not have a good strong math background, so I was put in with I suppose most of the women initially in a group which was processing traffic as it came in, Japanese messages.

Farley: Okay Gloria, let's discuss the organization of the WAC company on post. Remember any names, your CO or exec?

Chiles: I'm very sorry. I don't remember the names. I looked to see if I had some of those available to me and I don't. So I can't give you the names. I do have at

home a picture of the company and I'm sure that there must be some people around here who could identify the names. Colonel Corderman, of course, is there.

Farley: Okay. The company, you pooled duties there as well as working your eight hours a day or whatever (nuclear) \_\_\_\_\_?

Chiles: Yes. Oh yes. We had KP and actually, we stood inspection every Saturday morning, even if you were on the swing or the midnight shift and you were sleeping right there in bed. The inspection came through anyway. So I don't know how many times the inspecting officer saw WACs sleeping, but that's the way it was.

Farley: Gloria, this was the W-A-C or was it...? ✓

Chiles: Yes. The W-A-C.

Farley: So you didn't have any experience in the W-A-A-C?

Chiles: No.

Farley: I was just curious about whether there was any difference at all.

Chiles: Well, I think there was, but I'm not exactly sure when the WAAC was abandoned and the WAC took over.

Farley: Probably late '42 I would guess.

Chiles: Probably. I'm not sure.

Farley: Okay., We're in the building now.

Chiles: Yes. Well, we arrived at Arlington Hall and I think my first assignment was the midnight shift and then I

believe it was in B Building on the second floor, I could be wrong. Might have been A Building on the second floor. But we were processing the Japanese incoming material and what we did is we identified the traffic. We had lists of idents and we had all copies of the traffic come to us and so we wrote identifications on them. And I remember my first question was "What is all this?" "What is a message?" And unfortunately, we didn't get any training. There were no training courses that were given to us. There was a job to be done and we were taught how to do it as we went along and that was it.

Farley: No orientation at all then?  
 How many are we talking about? Just a half dozen girls?

Chiles: There were about ten, I think, that came in with me, ten or twelve. I can remember some of their names. I can remember names of others that I met after I came on board, too. And I've got some of those names written down here for you. But primarily, I presume what happened was that certain individuals were identified from each of the recruiting areas and they came here in separate groups. So there must have been people arriving continuously and they must have not had any special orientation when we came on board.

Farley: Were you given a security briefing and asked to sign an oath?

Chiles: Yes. Yes. We were given, <sup>a</sup> we were sworn, we were given security briefing. We had to sign papers, be fingerprinted and we were given the kind of a badge that pins on your coat.

Farley: Right. The yellow....  
Do you remember any names, civilian gals or guys that you worked with in the sorting thing of it?

Chiles: Well, I don't recall <sup>of</sup> too many right at that point in time. I don't even remember who the supervisor was. I don't believe <sup>that</sup> I was kept on that more than about two or three months. I was transferred from that to a branch where, or a unit, where I worked day shift. And that was very delightful. I felt quite fortunate to be selected for this. And I worked for Lt Brash, who was in charge of a unit that was called special projects unit, ultimately, but originally when I first went in there with him, it was called the interrogation and research, er, interrogation and inference section. They were involved in ~~doing~~ isolating information and trying to come up with indicators which would be of value. And it was my first exposure to traffic analysis. Here again, I didn't have a TA course, but at any rate, I learned right on the job. The work was interesting and I was very...I felt very fortunate to get in this position.

Farley: Was the traffic identification section the first step?

when they trained the WACs they'd go there first?  
Then go on to something better?

Chiles: Yes. Yes.

Farley: You have any idea how you happened to be selected for the next section?

Chiles: No, I don't know. Don't have any idea. Maybe because I really was a pretty hard worker and I didn't do very much goofing around. I had come in with a pretty clear identification as to what my goals were. I really wanted to help the war effort. So the only time I wasn't at work was when I was over in the mess hall. I never missed a meal in the mess hall.

Farley: Gloria, was that section related to any specific target or system, Japanese code system, or was it across the board?

Chiles: I have written down here a few things for you that might be helpful. This right here, this was a part of the traffic analysis<sup>section</sup>, that Captain <sup>c</sup>Partney headed. And I think it was under the intelligence division which was made up of four or five branches. And we were under the TA and control branch, which was called SP SIB4. And the sub-section was originally called the interrogation and inference sub-section, then it was changed to special projects in '45. And through traffic patterns on...this is on the Japanese material...they had been able to identify convoy movements,



and they had gotten...what had happened was we would identify convoy movements, when they finally were able to read the messages they would confirm that they were convoy movements. And this was one of the first successes, so to speak, as far as traffic analysis was concerned, to be able to identify aircraft movements or convoy shipping before you could read the messages. Gave TA sort of an impetus. We worked with what we called Hona messages, which were multiple address messages, and those were very valuable. and later on in...well, originally, my job title was 8709 Traffic Analyst T5. Later on for about six months, I was <sup>a</sup> Cryptanalytic Technician and it was numbered 808, the job number. And in this capacity I helped Steve Wolfe, who was the Master Sergeant Technical Assistant for the branch and <sup>a</sup> highly competent traffic analyst. I helped him in support of cryptanalysis and that was really fun. That was a fun job of my life because we were able to pull out certain Hona messages and pull out stereotypes and isologs and take <sup>them</sup> ~~em~~ to the crypties and we felt like we were really ~~pre~~forming a function that was valuable. During the end of the war, right toward the end of the war and then after the war, I learned how to work and <sup>e</sup> overlap with Steve and assisted the reading of the rest of the message<sup>s</sup>, sort of a mop-up which was done after the war was over.

But working with Steve Wolfe was the big highlight.

Farley: Gloria, in the interrogation and inference section, what was your source of material? Where did your material come from?

Chiles: Well, I believe that the material came from the analytic groups around us. Now there was a small amount of collateral because Lt Brash was involved with liaison capacity for the TA branch. I'm not exactly sure to what extent he was involved with, say, captured documents and with attache' reports and things of this nature, but I know that he did do quite a bit of liaison and he also had made a trip or two to England so that there was input from those sources. But what we did is we built up order of battle files and we worked with ~~refining~~<sup>refining</sup> some of the ...trying to study the stereotypes and the patterns of the convoy movements and things if this type where the analytic groups didn't have the time to do this. They were involved with the day-to-day operation reporting.

Farley: So you were just a support.

Chiles: So we were a support and that's why they ultimately called it the special projects unit because we worked performing special projects in support of the entire branch.

Farley: Did you learn how to speak Japanese or a few Japanese words?

Chiles: No. No, but everyone practically knew Japanese. That was one of the shocks of my life when I arrived here. I found that there were so many people that, particularly the men, a lot of enlisted men had had ASTP training in California and various places and had come with the idea that they were gonna get commissions immediately as linguists and here they were, guards at the gate and motor pool and every other place. And that was really a shock. I was so surprised. but you know, the United States Army always overdoes things. They need Japanese language people so they go train <sup>them.</sup> ~~em.~~

Farley: <sup>That's true.</sup> Okay, you were in this section and then branched off into the pure TA operations?

Chiles: Well, not really. <sup>U</sup> maybe I haven't been too clear, but the special projects unit is what I was attached to all the time, I think, after my initial coming in and <sup>in</sup> the processing unit. But I do know that the functions of Lt Brash's position had to do with assisting cryptanalysis and coming up with indicators for intelligence purposes. And that was what we were primarily involved with. I did relieve a man for active duty, which is what every WAC was supposed to do. And I'm sorry I don't have the man's name. He was a sergeant and I took his place in Lt Brash's branch and he went off to OCS...if you want to call

that more active, more active than what he was to him. But LT Brash, ultimately became CAPT Brash. So I guess I should mention that. And I have on the back of my discharge a write-up which says that what my job discription was when I was here, and I will have to say that it sort of surprised me when it states, and I don't remember this, that I supervised five civilians doing research work of enemy material in military intelligence, and I don't remember supervising five people. But nevertheless....

Farley: Did you read it all? Read it all for us.

Chiles: It says that I was given research problems which were worked out using my own techniques and the results of which were used to formulate policies. I acted as liaison between traffic analysis and cryptanalysis section in supplying information that was needed. And as I say, the big highlight was the support to cryptanalysis. That was the most meaningful.

Farley: Was all this material classified? If so, how was it classified? Do you remember?

Chiles: It was classified...I'm not sure. But we did end up with TOP SECRET CODEWORD material. And I believe it was TOP SECRET ULTRA.

Farley: Did you see the word ULTRA stamped on a lot of that material?

Chiles: Yes. Yes.

Farley: I never saw it 'til Australia.

Chiles: Is that right?

Farley: But the bulk of the material was TOP SECRET?

Chiles: Well yes. Now I'm sure that the raw material we received wasn't classified that high so my initial time when I was in the processing unit I wasn't handling TOP SECRET ULTRA material. But when I did work for Captain Brash I was handling it. And we, I believe we had SECRET CODEWORD also, but I'm not really too sure.

Farley: Was there ever any CONFIDENTIAL; do you remember any CONFIDENTIAL?

Chiles: I would imagine that the raw material would be.

Farley: Was there abundant... Was there an abundance of raw traffic?

Chiles: There was an abundance. It was an endless job. There was lots of material to go through and everyone seemed to me like everyone was busy. People had their hands full. One thing that was nice in a way is that the lights never went out. It was around-the-clock operation. You got up and left your desk. You didn't secure anything. You didn't have to because somebody else was coming in to work.

Farley: Would they sit right at your desk and take over your project?

Chiles: On the initial processing, yes. The desk was used for processing and when you left somebody else came in

and took your desk. Now, when I worked for Captain Brash, we were only working in the daytime, most of us were only working in the daytime, and we had our own desk. However, there was usually someone there all night long somewhere in that section working, and nothing was put away. We didn't secure or lock up our desks or anything like that.

Farley: The whole area was secure.

Chiles: That's right. The whole area was secure. One thing I might say is that there was a lot of overtime put in by the WACs. I was on a day shift, but I know that there was lots of times that I'd go to eat my dinner in the mess <sup>hall</sup> and come back and work.

Farley: You came in as a PVT and then when did you get promotion?

Chiles: I went out as a T5.

Farley: A T5. That's a corporal with a T in the middle of it.

Chiles: Yeah.

Farley: You never did get to <sup>go to</sup> OCS?

Chiles: No.

Farley: Did you ever put in for it?

Chiles: No, I was really only in the service a year and a half. That really isn't too long. I was separated at Fort Dix in January of '46 and then I came back to work as a civilian.

Farley: Gloria, could you recall enough to recount the life, how shall I say it, an eight-hour shift? What happened

when you came in in the morning? What was...you did in the beginning and the next and the next? Could you recount just a WAC's tour of duty?

Chiles: Well, I'm afraid I couldn't because it isn't that crystal clear as to what I actually did. I know that when I first went to the special projects unit I worked on the order of battle files so that was rather routine material. I was taking material from the other sections and putting them in a card file and doing a routine logging job, building up the order of battle file. Then later on, I had a variety of other tasks and I can't just recall.

Farley: Can you recall any of the system designators that you worked on?

Chiles: No, because we were receiving the decrypts and I should've been able to remember them, but I don't. I remember seeing Purple. (laughs)

Farley: You saw the translation?<sup>s</sup>

Chiles: The decrypts, the translations, yes.

What we did is we took the translations and from that made up our order of battle file so that we had a file of translations. I don't know that we had very much in the diplomatic. I think we had primarily just military because we were working in support of the military and I don't think <sup>that</sup> we were too much involved with water transport or any of that. <sup>It was</sup> Primarily

military. We were looking for military order of battle information, air force and ground forces and actual ships.

Farley: Was it pretty low<sup>w</sup> level or was it across the board?

Chiles: No, it went right up to the very highest. Yes.

Farley: So you'd get something on the armies, and.....

Chiles: Yes. Right.

Farley: Who supplied that? Do you remember the section?

The designation?

Chiles: Yes, it came from the...primarily it would come from the language branch, SPSIB 1 and 2, Military Cryptanalysis and General Cryptanalytics. Now I think that the third branch, I'm not sure, one of these branches must have been involved with diplomatics.

Farley: So you did everything.

Chiles: But I'm not sure that we got all of the diplomatic. I think we just got the military because, as I say, the order of battle was what we were interested in. It could be however, that LT Brash's<sup>unit</sup> did get everything because as I say, he performed liaison, he worked with interrogation of prisoners or he was liaison with that and with attache' reports, so he probably.....

Farley: Gloria, do you recall whether there was any control or any accounting of any of this traffic or any of the reports, or did they just pass across <sup>your desk?</sup> ~~to you.~~



Chiles: No. No. I don't remember ever seeing a controlled document that we had to sign for. We didn't have time.

Farley: That's right. There was freedom there, for sure.

Chiles: That's right.

Farley: I guess, based on the amount of traffic, it was impossible to require people to sign receipts.

Chiles: That's right.

Farley: Now what happened to your product or your services<sup>?</sup> after you built up your OB files, did the cryptanalysts<sup>s</sup> use them at all, or did you forward the information to them?

Chiles: Well, you know, I'm really sorry. I don't remember. I remember that we did write and compile some reports and I presume that those reports were made available in-house as well as to customers, but I don't really remember too much about how it was done.

Farley: Probably ~~could~~ *could have been both, really.*

Chiles: I'm sure that we put out some technical aids, but I think mostly we were trying to <sup>e</sup>nhance the product with intelligence indicators and things of this type that would be meaningful.

Farley: Did you maintain a daily liaison with the crypties<sup>p</sup> and ~~analysts(?)~~ *analysts(?)*.

Chiles: I did toward the end, about the last six months. And as I say, that was the fun part and I <sup>mt</sup>really sorry I can't remember the system titles because I remember working

on overlaps and learning something about cryptanalysis and working with Steve Wolfe. And we had a system... we had a situation where there was a multiple address message that went out of Tokyo every Saturday, or maybe the end of the week, maybe it was Friday. I don't know, but it was Saturday when we would go looking for it. And it went to all the Army headquarters. And because one of the Army headquarters had not able to receive the new cipher information, there was one isolated group that received theirs in the old cipher. And that was the most fun job to get all those messages together and rush them over to the crypt<sup>p</sup>ies, because we knew that as soon as they got that one which they could read, they would be able to break into all of the others. And that was fun.

Farley: While you're talking about <sup>that,</sup> just I recall similar incidences in the Pacific; did you ever know about the operation in Australia? Did you ever get any information from them?

Chiles: Not until after the war. I mean I didn't know at the time. I ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> least I don't remember.

Farley: That was one of the big breaks, too, because of the distribution problem some of the far out places could never get the second and third <sup>and forth</sup> copies of the codes.

Chiles: That's right.

Farley: Would you preferred to have been in the cryptanalytical end, <sup>of it</sup> if you had had an opportunity?

Chiles: Well, I think I probably would have. It seemed to me as though that's where all the action was, but I do feel <sup>that</sup> I learned a great deal where I was. Maybe I had an opportunity to learn <sup>more</sup> there than I would have otherwise. And ~~I had~~, without having any kind of formal training, and as I say, everyone was too busy to worry about having TA courses or CA courses or anything else. We learn<sup>ed</sup> by doing.

Farley: Were there any British or Canadian or Australian people that you worked with?

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Chiles: Well, I didn't work with them, but I remember seeing the liaison people. I remember particularly  who was there during <sup>the war</sup>. I don't know why I remember him specifically. I did have an association with him after the war, so maybe that's why I remember.

Farley: Did you know Colonel Tiltman who made Brigadier General?

Chiles: No. No, I didn't 'cause I wasn't associated with that part of the crypt problem.

Farley: Did you ever in any capacity have any association with some of the wheels, the <sup>v</sup>dips, the majors and above?

Chiles: Well no, but it's interesting to remember the young lieutenants that later became wheels. And I remember both of the Connelly<sup>s</sup>, Herb and ~~JJ~~. And I remember <sup>Buffham</sup> Bob ~~Bowman~~ and, of course, Norm <sup>Boardman</sup> ~~Vorgman~~ <sup>I</sup>. Madison Mitchell.

got out of

Right after the war, right after I <sup>got out of</sup> the service and came back to work, my first supervisor was Madison Mitchell.

Farley: Was it really? Gloria, did the <sup>warrant</sup> WAC officers have command of you when you were working eight to five? Or did you work for a civilian supervisor? Or a military supervisor?

Chiles: Well I worked, except for the initial traffic processing, which may have been supervised by civilian, I sort of think it was, but I don't really recall too much, but after those first initial months I was supervised by military. I was supervised by Captain Brash himself. And I, as far as my other duties were concerned, why, we just more or less told the office when we were on KP, and you know, when we had to do something else. But I ~~don't~~ didn't have any civilian supervision that I recall.

Farley: Were there many WAC officers in the building or at Arlington Hall?

Chiles: Oh, there were a few. I remember Dorothy McCarthy, who was a WAC officer. I don't remember very many in the building.

Farley: Most of them were probably company officers, I would guess.

Chiles: Yes. Yes.

Farley: You don't remember your first sergeant's name?

Chiles: No. And the company officer, of course, had perogatives when it came to parades and all the stuff we had to

do for drills and for inspection<sup>s</sup> and all that.

Farley: What was th<sup>e</sup>atmosph<sup>e</sup>re between the enlisted men and enlisted women? Was it pleasant, unpleasant or a little bit of both?

Chiles: Well, I think it was relatively pleasant. I don't remember any big problems. We shared the same facilities, ~~that~~ at the recreation hall and areas like that and there never seemed to be any problems.

Farley: Did you <sup>have the</sup> same mess hall, too?

Chiles: Same mess hall.

Farley: Could I <sup>ask</sup> the same question regarding civilians and the WACs? Civilian women and the WACs?

Chiles: Well, there was a little bit of tension in some of these areas I think. One of the reasons was that the civilian women came at a certain time and left at a certain time and if there was a big problem or some sort of <sup>a</sup> crash project that had to be done, <sup>why,</sup> it was always the WACs that ended up doing it. I also remember seeing some of the male officers more of <sup>r</sup> less, well, being very solicitous of the female secretaries because secretaries were had to get. There weren't very many of them and they were needed, so they always seemed to get a lot of priority as far as attention was concerned.

Farley: Was there any directive saying that you <sup>wouldn't</sup> fraternize with the commissioned <sup>officers</sup> or commissioned officers were

told not to fraternize?

Chiles: I don't remember that. There may have been. I stayed pretty close to the enlisted quarters, so I wasn't fraternizing with any of them.

Farley: Gloria, did you ever consider going overseas?

Chiles: I had thought that when I first joined the WACs that I would go wherever I was needed, <sup>but</sup> ~~and that~~ of course I joined rather late in the war and there seemed to be no need.

Farley: Was there any special criteria established for anyone who wanted to go overseas, <sup>would</sup> do you recall? Say so many years to serve? <sup>or so much experience?</sup>

Chiles: No, I don't remember.

Farley: Okay. Do you have anything on your list there that...? <sup>g</sup>

Chiles: I had a few names here. I remember specifically a corporal whose name was Irene Harris and she worked for LT Latham in a group that was doing net analysis in the TA branch and she was a very efficient WAC and and I can make sort of specific ideas about her and her work. There were some other WACs that were my friends. There was Julia Beach, and there was a girl by the name of Betty Burger who married an enlisted man that was on the post. His name was Harris ~~Levy~~ and they ultimately went to New York City. Betty Burger

was from California and she was one of the WACs that came from California and had never seen snow. So you know, it was <sup>sort of</sup> one of those delightful things. <sup>and</sup> then there was a girl who was Lebanese. Her name was Alice Basset and she married an enlisted man whose name was John Rutherford. And John Rutherford was one of the language people who didn't get his commission, but certainly should have because he was very qualified.

Farley: Did you ever run across anybody like Mary Jo Dunning?

Chiles: Uh, only after, only after.

Farley: And old Pete Peterson. Most of those people were instructors, too.

Chiles: Yes, I guess they were. After the war, the first... even though I was in the TA field, my first course was CA. And I remember having a CA course, I believe I had one from Peterson. I'm not sure about that. But I did know a friend of his, Ken Raskin, who was a very good friend of mine.

Farley: He was a captain about that time, wasn't he? *He became a major.*

Chiles: Yeah. Yes. <sup>he was</sup> I was out of the service then.

Farley: Gloria, do you recall any WACs, how shall I say that again? Can you think of any WACs who were recalled for the Korean Conflict?

Chiles: No. I don't know of any.

Farley: <sup>I never saw them do that.</sup> How about the percentage of WACs that you know <sup>2</sup> who

stayed on as civilians or civilianized in '46 and '47.<sup>?</sup>

Chiles: Well, after the war was over there were a number of people who wanted to remain. I think the war ended a little bit faster than a number of us thought it would, and I know that there was one instance in my barracks of a WAC who couldn't make the emotional adjustment to the end of the war. She may have been sort of like a manic depressive. I'm not sure, but I remember that a number of the girls were trying to help her and she just kept sort of losing control of herself. She couldn't sleep at night and so she would talk to everybody in the barracks all the time. And she kept talking even though she had been a quiet person prior to this. And then ultimately, they hospitalized her, but she...her problem was that she had to face going back into her schoolteacher role, and I guess that this was something she just didn't want to do. There were a number of civilians who would like to have stayed and they were given red slips or pink slips or whatever kind of ~~whatever kind~~ of dismissal slips. And we felt fortunate to be in the military because we were given priority, in....

Farley: All right Gloria. Let me switch tapes.

SIDE B



Farley: Gloria, what do you think we sort of touched on lightly that we should really talk about? Equipments? Did you use any...like the national cash register equipment or access to any IBM equipment in your work at all?

Chiles: No.

Farley: None at all.

Chiles: No.

Farley: I'm thinking the attitude of the system that they used to use.

Chiles: Right. No. Everything I did was by hand. Except I think I did do a little bit of typing even though I didn't want to admit to that.

Farley: How about orientation tours? Did you take any throughout the building to see what was being done where? Or was this just because you had business there?

Chiles: No. I didn't have any formal orientation tours that I recall.

Farley: You didn't try to.....

Chiles: I never had any association with the German problem. I worked <sup>t</sup>strickly on the Japanese. And I worked <sup>t</sup>strickly between ~~on~~ my group and the associated crypt group. I didn't mingle with any of the language people.

Farley: How about the people who wrote the final report<sup>s</sup>, they call <sup>them</sup> ~~em~~ SRAs now, the reporters? Did you ever see

any of the final product?

Chiles: Yes, I did. And here again, I saw it because we were receiving a copy of just about everything that was put out. At least, everything that was of value for the work that we were doing. And so I remember seeing the final reports.

Farley: Would these be the reports that went out to an external distribution?

Chiles: Yes.

Farley: Would you remember how broad that distribution was?

Chiles: No. Maybe 15 or 20, but I don't think any more.

Farley: Somebody like the Army and the Navy and JCS?

Chiles: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Farley: We're trying to find out just exactly how broad the distribution was during the World War II days.

Chiles: You are? Well, that's interesting. There should be some World War II reports available that would give a distribution I would think.

Farley: With the COMINT catalogs or the predecessor documents, they're kind of hard to locate.

Chiles: No, I'm sorry. I can't remember. Now, Wally Winkler or Helen O'Rourke might have that.

Farley: We want to talk to them.

Chiles. Right.

Farley: Gloria, ~~How~~ were you assigned to your sequence of job? Were there orders cut on you, or was it a verbal  
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order to go over there to Building B <sup>in</sup> and second deck and report to....?

Chiles: I think there was only one order cut and that was when my job title was changed from TA to crypt, and that was the only change. But as far as the internal assignment was concerned, I was just informally told to go report here.

Farley: Were you ever ~~or not~~ involved in any sensitive assignments, ~~or~~ assignments that would require a special clearances?

Chiles: No. Not that I recall.

Farley: I don't think they had them in those days.

Chiles: No, I don't think ..... If they did, I didn't know about it.

Farley: Everything seemed pretty open then, but it seemed to have tighter control.

Chiles: Well, I do remember that there were...that we were given continually a security briefings. Periodically, we were reminded about security, and there was the incident where a couple of WACs came in and tried to penetrate the organization. I don't know whether you know about that or not. But we used to wear these badges that pinned on your clothing and when we went to the mess hall or went to the cafeteria I should say, we would quite often have the badge on our coat, and we would hang our coat up on a hanger, knob, and

then we would go through the line, and so our coat would be there against the wall and we'd be at a table. Now, apparently what happened was a couple of WACs were given instructions from the Pentagon that they were to try to penetrate the Arlington Hall station. So they came, I don't know how they got through the gates, maybe they made up some story or something, but at any rate, they came into the cafeteria and they took badges off of the coats. Then they went through the buildings in various sections and organiz... units and picked up material off people's desks. And just picked it up and walked out. Anywhere they could, they lifted this material. It turned out that while they were doing this there was a fire alarm. We used to have fire alarms all the time because we had so much traffic and material and everything. so it just turned out that there was a fire alarm during their little penetration and they thought that they had been discovered, the penetration had been discovered, so they turned themselves in. But they turned themselves in with all this material. And there <sup>was</sup> a lot of embarrassed people when the material was returned to the desks and to the organizations where it belonged. I think that...I don't remember when they did away with the buttons on the coats, but I do know that that kind of a badge was very insecure.

Farley:

Yes. ↩

Gloria, do you recall other incidents that might have been for real? Any spies or any Soviet penetration?

Chiles:

No.

Farley:

Anybody try to get you to tell you all the secrets?

Chiles:

No. No, I lived a very secure life. When I was a WAC I was right on post all the time and of course, we did look forward to our weekend jaunts into town, and my father was living in Washington, D.C., so I spent quite a bit of my free time with him. So I never had that problem.

Farley:

Did you hear of any of the girls having problems like that? I mean, somebody approaching them?

Chiles:

No. Don't know of any. Don't know of any.

Farley:

Might be interesting listening.

Chiles:

Yes, it would be. I don't recall of anybody having those problems. You know Washington was just full of service personnel and they were traveling and ~~they~~ were going in all different directions and so it seemed to be such a common sight that I.....

Farley:

You had to stay on post. None of the girls could live off post?

Chiles:

None of the enlisted women that I know. They all lived on post. And as I say, we lived in this very humble surroundings. I recall when I first got here I was on the night shift and I happened to be a very

sound sleeper. It didn't matter whether I was sleeping daytime or when, I never had any trouble sleeping. And one evening I woke up and found that my bunk had been moved. Me and my bunk and everything had been moved to the other end of the barracks and I had slept during the whole thing. So those were some the crazy things that would happen that you....

Farley: Did you have to stay in that barracks all during your tour there; or did they give you a modern barracks?

Chiles: Oh. Toward the very end we were moved to a more modern barracks, but somehow or other it didn't have the atmosphere. I mean, it wasn't quite as good because we really got to learn to know each other and suffered through our hardships together, and so.

Farley: Were those barracks down below the firehouse?

Chiles: Yes.

Farley: The PX down over the hill?

Chiles: Yes. They were down over the hill? And there were several of them. I think that some of the men had barracks that had the same old potbellied stoves. As a matter of fact, as I recall, our barracks was right beside a barracks that was inhabited by the enlisted men and I know they used to make jokes about <sup>our</sup> laundry hanging on the lines. Of course, we didn't have anything but the old army underwear, so I don't think that would turn anybody on very much.

Farley:            (nuclear)  
Would you believe that?

Chiles: Aren't they?

Farley: Issuing OD undies.

Chiles: Is that right?

Farley: Crazy story.

Chiles: My!

Farley: Gloria, when you got out again did you have to sign an oath, took the security oath that you never, never would reveal anything?

Chiles: I don't recall. I don't believe I did because I didn't...I wasn't debriefed at Arlington Hall. When I got out of the service, I went to Ft. Dix, and I was discharged there and I don't remember the procedure for the discharge. I just remember getting <sup>my</sup> pay, which was important thing. And I suppose there must have been that kind of a procedure, but I don't recall it. And I was just there a few days and I came right back to Arlington Hall and went back to work as a civilian. So

Farley: Did anybody recruit you to stay off in the WACs or offer you a better deal?

Chiles: No.

Farley: Just wanted you out.

Chiles: As a matter of fact, they seemed to be happy to get people to...

~~SECRET//SI~~

Farley: To get out. You got your civilian job. Had you arranged that before you left as a WAC?

Chiles: Yes.

Farley: So how long were you out?

Chiles: I think it may have taken <sup>about</sup> a week all together, just the processing. So I don't.....

Farley: So you went home for a little leave and then.....

Chiles: I don't think, no, I didn't go home. I just went up to Fort Dix and was up there for two or three days and then came back and went back to work, so it couldn't have been more than a week, I'm sure.

Farley: Moved into an apartment in Buckingham, probably?

Chiles: Yes. Something like that.

Farley: What did you do? Go back to the same job you had as a WAC?

Chiles: No. When I was rehired I went to work for Madison Mitchell, and he was in charge of the [redacted]

[redacted]

Farley: Oh. Took that long. What were you doing then, a

[redacted]

Chiles: Uh no. We...well, my job had to do with something like <sup>what</sup> I had been doing in the Japanese problem. We were collecting multiple address messages and patterns, traffic patterns, and we were building up their order of battle, such as it was. Our most interesting material came from Burma and from North Africa. And

~~SECRET//SI~~





The traffic was put together by thorns. The [redacted] used very sharp thorns to fasten their messages together. Of course, it was all hand written and the hand written stuff was pretty hard to read.

*(laughter)*

Farley: Especially the fifth carbon copy. Did you notice an abrupt change around Arlington Hall in the...this was late '46? Mid '46?

Chiles: Mid '46.

Farley: Did you notice an abrupt change and people disappearing?

Chiles: Yes. Lots of people disappearing.

Farley: And the military, I guess, they were sort of phasing out, too.

Chiles: Well, yes, I think I was...seemed to phase out sort of early for me, but I think that gradually they phased out. I don't recall, maybe it was '47 or '48 before I remember seeing so many civilians, but at any rate, there was this gradual phasing and a lot of people that I knew and was associated with actually came back as civilians, so....

Farley: A lot of the WACs? Quite a few of the WACs?

Chiles: Not so many of the WACs as a lot of the men that I associated with. Officers and enlisted men.

Farley: Who else in the WACs came back with you? Would you

recall?

Chiles: Um. No, I don't right off-hand. I don't remember.

Farley: Some of them did and some of them didn't.

Chiles: I'm sure they did, but now I don't remember. I remember Dorothy McCarthy came back. But she was an officer, so I don't remember very many of the enlisted women.

I remember some of the enlisted men. There was ... well, an officer, male, male officers, too.

There was ... of course, Mitch who I was working for.

There was Bill Casmar who was an enlisted man. There was John Murphy who was an officer. I just don't recall. I haven't really given it very much thought.

Farley: Gloria, what do you think was the most satisfying accomplishment of your career in the WACs?

Chiles: Well, as I say, the Saturday morning messages that we gathered together for the crypties probably. That seemed to me to be a highlight.

Farley: Those were good days, weren't they? You felt you were contributing something.

Chiles: Yes, and everyone worked together. ~~Everyone~~ .....  
There seemed to be a job to be done and nobody was trying to get the glory or take the credit or anything like that. Everybody worked together and it was a really good place to work. Very good place.

Farley: Gloria, did the WAC companies of HAI (C) get any commendation at all or any award, Presidential Citation,

do you recall?

Chiles: I'm sorry. I don't know. I don't remember. I don't remember.

Farley: Did you ever talk to any of the WACs who were either in England or in Australia?

Chiles: No. I did know a WAC captain after the war. I met a WAC captain who was with OSS and who came to work at our agency as a civilian and I... we talked about war stories and I heard some really interesting stories from her which had to do with the Special Strategic Forces. She was with Bill <sup>Donovan</sup> ~~Dunivan~~ and those in England.

Farley: One thing I forgot to ask you was what was the designation of your WAC company?

Chiles: Well, we were attached to the Second Signals Service Battalion, and I think our company was Company B.

Farley: Okay. So it was Second Sig?

Chiles: Second Signals Service Battalion. Yes.

Farley: There was no separate designation at all.

Chiles: No.

Farley: Okay. Gloria, What do you think we've overlooked?

Chiles: Nothing that I can think of as far as that <sup>date</sup> period's is concerned. And as I say, it's... there's a lot of it that's very vague. And there may have been a few things I said that weren't correct, but as I recall, this was about the way it was.

Farley: Is there anything else you want to put down before we knock it off?

Chiles: No, I don't believe so.

Farley: I don't want to prolong it anymore than what you want.

Chiles: I appreciate the opportunity to help out a little bit if I can.

Farley: Thank you graciously for taking your time with a day or two to go before you leave.

Chiles: Yes.

Farley: Glad we got you on time.

Chiles: Thank you.

Farley: ~~2~~ Thank you very much, Gloria. Appreciate it.